

From: Devon Jones
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a programmer, and computer specialist. And I heartily feel that the courts accepting the Microsoft settlement is a travesty of justice. The proposed settlement does little to mitigate the damage that the Microsoft OS monopoly does to many sectors of the computer economy. Even more damaging is the effect on the Open Source/Free Software community and businesses.

Probably the single most damaging aspect of the remedy is that it does not force Microsoft to disclose publically the workings of it's file formats. The cornerstone of the MS monopoly is it's applications. Those applications create a giagantic barrier to entry, and allow Microsoft to decide which Operating Systems will be taken seriously in the office. No other operating system will be able to compete on an even footing unless the file formats are made public. This will facilitate competing packages such as StarOffice, Lotus Smartsuite, and Corel Office being able to actually enter the market place, and still be able to read documents from the incredibly large installed base of Microsoft Office. Only when this has happened will competing desktop operating systems be able to even have a chance in the market.

The second most damaging issue about the settlement is that it almost seems designed to legalize the status quo of microsoft's monopoly control of the industry. Steps need to be taken in a final settlement to not only open the application business to competetion (so that situations such as that surrounding Netscape do not happen again), but to also open the marketplace to other operating systems. Please do not allow this settlement to go through that not only keeps many of the barriers to entry that MS has created, but also errects some new berriers to entry.

thank you,
Devon Jones
Integware Inc.